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NEWS

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GRIZZLY NETTERS HOSTING IDAHO, MONTANA STATE, WHITWORTH IN THREE DAYS

MISSOULA---

Tom Whiddon's University of Montana tennis team, which won one and lost two on a trip south last weekend, hopes to pick up three victories at home this weekend while wrapping up regular season play before the Big Sky Conference Championships May 17-18.

The Grizzlies will be facing Montana State Friday at 10 a.m., the University of Idaho Saturday at 10 a.m., and Whitworth College Monday at 2 p.m. on the University Courts.

Montana beat Montana State 9-0 in Bozeman two weeks ago, lost to Idaho 8-1 on the tail end of a three-day, five-match road trip April 13, and lost to Whitworth 8-1 April 18 in Spokane.

Playing for the Grizzlies, with season records in parentheses, will be Rick Ferrell of Spokane (7-6), number one; Steve Meloy of Helena (6-7), two; Brian Kekich of Missoula (6-7), three; Bud Schatz of Missoula (8-5), four; either Kerry Bunker of Great Falls (1-5) or Berry Ormsbee of Hamilton (1-2), five, and Rod Richardson of Billings (3-10), six.

Doubles teams will be Ferrell-Kekich (8-5), one; Meloy-Schatz (2-2), two, and Bunker-Richardson (2-2), three.

Whiddon thinks experience gained since last meeting Idaho and Whitworth should bring the promise of better showings against the two schools, perhaps even victories.

"Idaho will be the team to beat in the Big Sky this year," Whiddon said. "If we don't play a good, close match with them Saturday, then our chances for a top finish in the league will be dimmed."

Whiddon said he is expecting better matches against both Idaho and Whitworth than the Grizzlies had before.

Last week, the Grizzlies beat Idaho State 9-0 before dropping 9-0 matches to Utah State and Brigham Young University on the road. BYU has won every home match by 9-0 scores this spring.